

TO CONTACT THE PARISH/FATHER NEIL

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Parish Website – www.catholicchurchneath.org.uk

The Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 17th October 2021

The Year of St. Joseph A daily prayer to St. Joseph. *“Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted His only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became a man. Blessed St. Joseph, to us too, show yourself to be a father, and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen”*

THIS SUNDAY

Last Sunday in Rome, Pope Francis invited the whole church to participate in a world-wide preparation for the Synod of Bishops meeting in Rome in 2023. The theme of the Synod is **“Towards a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission”**. Today, Sunday 17th October, Pope Francis invites every parish to inaugurate this world-wide consultation of the laity of the Church in which, over the next six months, parishes, Deaneries and Dioceses will have the opportunity to offer reflections and comments on the contemporary life of the Church and on the way forward.

If anyone would like to respond to such questions as (i) When I pray for the Church – what am I praying to happen in the life of the Church? (ii) Why has there been such a drastic decline in church attendance over the last 50 years? What is the cause? What is the remedy? (iii) What is/ought to be, the role of Catholic schools in the life of the Church, the life of the parish, the life of society? (iv) Do I want to be more involved in the life of the parish/and the church? If not, why not? How (in what ways) would I like to contribute more to the parish/to the Church? or if you have responses to other concerns/questions (which do not question the teaching of the Church!) – I will ensure that those views are made known at a Deanery level which will then be passed on to the Archbishop. A Diocesan Report will then be forwarded to the Bishops’ Conference of England & Wales.

Also (!) this Sunday we are pleased to launch the publication of **“St Joseph’s Parish, Neath: a Short History”** - the fruition of several years of research and hard work by our two archivists Alan Boland (RIP) and Sandra Davies. Copies will be available for sale at the remarkable price of only £5-00 a copy (48 pages including colour photographs). We are very grateful to Alan and Sandra for indexing and securing the Parish Archives in the parish office which can be used for further reference in the future. **COPIES ARE AVAILABLE AFTER MASS FROM THE LADY CHAPEL** – Please have exact money available and place in the box provided. Thank you.

Message from Sandra – Many thanks to our printers, Richard Jones and his reprographics team at ELRS, which last year moved to a new base at the former Ynysmaerdy Primary School on Neath Road, Briton Ferry. By a remarkable and fitting coincidence, Alan began his school days in that very building! What is more, the school was opposite the Public Hall where Alan and his fellow “Ferryites” attended Mass in the 1940s. (Sandra would be very interested to receive any relevant additions or amendments, should there be a second print run. Please see Sandra as soon as possible if you have something to contribute. Many thanks.)

Mass Intentions this Sunday (17th October) **Saturday** (St John Kemble) 4-00 p.m. Parish & People; (St. Joseph’s) 6-00p.m. Marion O’Grady (RIP) (Brendan); **Sunday** 8-00 a.m. Laurence Macpherson-Jones (RIP) (Adrian & Paula); 10-30a.m. Karin Edwards (RIP)

Weekday Mass Intentions Tuesday (19th October) 6-30p.m Alan and Gill Boland (RIP) (Donie, Pat & family); Wednesday (20th) **St. Joseph’s** 9-30a.m. Thanksgiving (Cheryl Ford); **St. John Kemble** 11-00a.m. Anita O’Donnell (RIP.) (Owen); Thursday (21st) 9-30a.m. Dan Davies (RIP) (Donie, Pat & family). Friday 22nd October (Pope St. John Paul) 9-30 a.m. Thanksgiving for the Centenary of the Legion of Mary

Mass Intentions next Sunday (24th October) **Saturday** (St. John Kemble) 4-00p.m. Parish & People (St. Joseph’s) 6-00p.m. Janet Jones (RIP) (Geraint); **Sunday** 8-00a.m. Pamela Cundle (Sp.Int.) (Anne Guest); 10-30a.m. William Hardie (RIP) (Karen & Douglas).

The Legion of Mary There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving for the work of our own St. Joseph's Legion of Mary (which was deferred from the earlier date due to Covid) this Friday at 9-30a.m.

Anniversaries: Of your charity, remember in prayer those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Ron Jones (2000); Margaret Morris (2004); Thomas Hansen (2019); Pam Sweeney (2000); Teresa Jenkins (2003); Patricia Thomas (2004); Teresa Pokoyski (2012); Patrick Gray (2014); Dina Davies (2013); Agnes Hopkins (2013); *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, And let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

Readers: **This Sunday** (17th October) 6-00p.m. Sandra Davies; 8-00a.m. Gregory Page; 10-30a.m. Tommy Parel. **Next Sunday** (24th October) 6-00p.m. Maureen McAteer; 8-00a.m. Adrian & Paula Macpherson-Jones; 10-30a.m. Berni Payne.

Cleaning Teams. **This Sunday** (17th October) 6-00p.m. Maralyn & Nora; 8-00a.m. Martin & Nuala; 10-30a.m. Joan & Anne. **Next Sunday** (24th October) 6-00p.m. Sian & Mary; 8-00a.m. Martin & Nuala; Volunteers please.

Candles: Our Lady – Violet Annie Whiting (RIP); The Sacred Heart – Private Intention ; St. Joseph – Jeff James (RIP).

First Holy Communion Classes Please keep in your prayers as they prepare for their First Holy Communion Ronan Abell, Lucy Owen, Jack Challenger, Ava Mallows, Julia Karczynska, John Grabczewski, Amelia Tristram, Julia Kuligowska, Efan and Bodi Lewis, Drake and Juris Pascual, Shuyalini Sivarupan, Joseph Owen, Brendan Fitchett, Lowrie Smitham, Ivy Walters. **Attendance at Mass is an essential part of preparation** for receiving Holy Communion. Classes will take place at 9-30 a.m. in the Parish Hall before the Sunday 10-30 a.m. Mass. **PLEASE NOTE** There will be **no class** over the half-term holiday (24th and 31st October) – the next two Sundays.

Tea & Biscuits in the Hall after the 10-30am. Mass. Please see Sheila if you are able to help. Thank you.

DOMSEC Livestreamed Events in 2021 A full programme of (over 25) events! See www.domsec.org.uk or www.ourladystaroftheseamumbles.org.uk to access the livestreams and click "Livestream" on the menu bar. **Saturday** – (6th November) from 11-00a.m. to 1-00p.m. **Faith in Bereavement** (Talk on Christian Bereavement Support) by Donna Hurley

Second Collections Next Sunday – **World Mission Sunday.**

Parish Collection Last weekend **St. Joseph's** £404-37 (plus Direct Debits) **St. John Kemble** £43-50. Many thanks.

Please Note If you wish to reserve a particular date or day for a Mass Intention, please note that Saturday and Sunday Masses and weekday Masses are already reserved for a particular intention **until the beginning of December.** Please think several months ahead if you would like to reserve a particular date (or nearest date). Thank you.

Month of Holy Souls Daily Mass intentions (and stipends) will continue, as usual, throughout November. If you would like loved ones remembered throughout the Month of Holy Souls please place names in the envelopes provided –no stipend is required. All names will be remembered at every Mass.

The Sick and Housebound Please continue to remember in your prayers all those who are sick and housebound, those in hospital and in our local care homes. Especially at this time, Peggy Swan (Glynneath), Jane Boland, George Johnson, Nancy Morris, Cheryl Ford, Andrew Jenkins, Jason Saunders, Yolanda Jones, Elizabeth Fluck, Lorna O'Brien, Betty Hopkins, Kevin Halloran, Rose Williams. If you would like others to be remembered in this prayer list (with their permission) please supply their names.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT. *Holy Spirit, Lord of Light, from the clear celestial height, Thy pure beaming radiance give. Come, Thou Father of the poor, come with treasures that endure, Come Thou Light of all that live. Light Immortal, Light Divine, Visit Thou this soul of mine, Wash the stain of guilt away. Bend the stubborn heart and will, Melt the frozen, warm the chill, Guide the steps that go astray. Come, Holy Spirit!*